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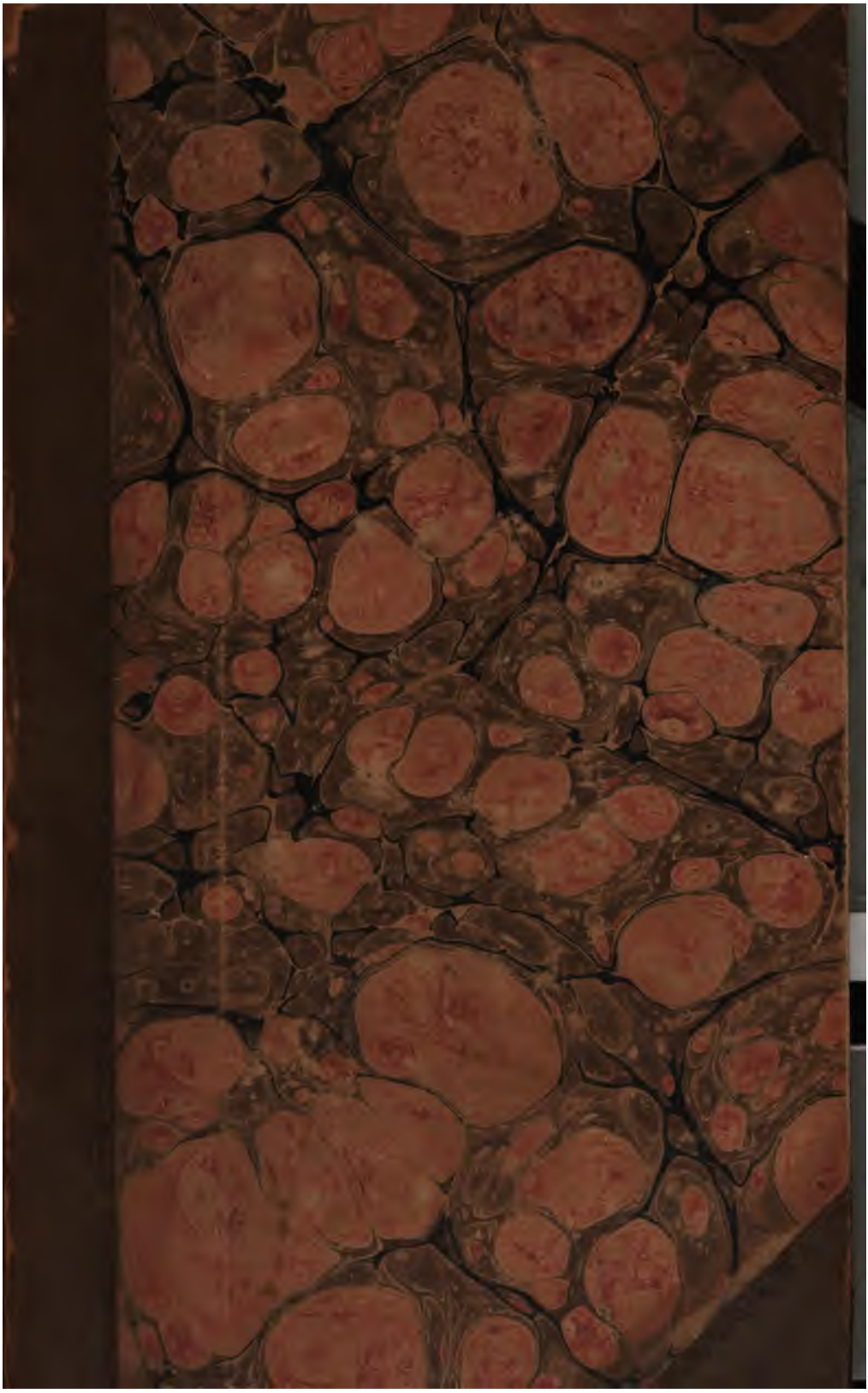

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# MEMOIR

OF

THE LATE

# MR. THOMAS HOLLOWAY.

3084
● 1.H.1911.

# MEMOIR

OF

THE LATE

# MR. THOMAS HOLLOWAY;

BY

ONE OF HIS EXECUTORS:

AND

MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

TO

THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE ENGRAVINGS

FROM THE

CARTOONS OF RAPHAEL.

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.

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# MEMOIR

OF

# MR. THOMAS HOLLOWAY.

THE most exemplary men look back upon their own lives with too much severity of examination to feel an unalloyed satisfaction at the review; the standard of moral purity and religious faith by which they endeavour to govern themselves, discovering too distinctly every deviation from perfection. They feel indeed unceasingly grateful to the Divine Being for having conducted them through their progress of years far from those dan-

gerous temptations which assail the majority, and for having saved them from the commission of criminal faults; but in this consolation are equally mingled pleasure and humility.

Many, however, who regard themselves with the greatest diffidence and self-condemnation, yet behold with triumph the heights to which virtue and religion can attain in others; and, under the influence of enjoined charity, extend to their failings the consideration which they withhold from their own. To such, the biography of a good man is always acceptable, and his praise agreeable. But moral excellence recommends itself to general attention: and it is a cheering reflection, that even very imperfectly regulated minds, and some who have the lowest fallen from their high estate, still retain a

perception of its value, and frequently look into superior examples, not for amusement only, but for improvement. In the circle of friendship and natural affinity, admiration of estimable characters is increased by affection and respect, which make the contemplation of their virtues a pleasing duty. After the separation of death especially, another and more powerful feeling arises in their favour; it is not alone the grief occasioned by their loss, their eternal destiny is then before us: we look towards their grave, and behold, not darkness and corruption, but, in imagination, a light like that which the angels diffused, when, announcing the memorable event which is the basis of a christian's hope of immortality, they said, 'He is risen.' We know that they are gone to their reward. Such a reflection reinforces our natural partiality, and adds a

new pleasure to the consideration of their conduct whilst on earth. In this frequent occupation of the thoughts, we are sensible they often erred, but grateful tenderness softens the eye of justice, and veils from a too strict regard, the faint traces of their little foibles; their imperfections are overlooked in the multitude of virtues they practised, and in the numerous obligations they conferred; or are regarded only as the shades of a fine prospect on which the sun impresses his resplendent beams. The retrospection indeed of a well spent life, and peaceful end of a good man, presents the most beautiful of all pictures to the mind; and is equally calculated to inspire satisfaction, confirm regard, alleviate sorrow, and incite to imitation. Such a memory is a treasure beyond price, and the noblest legacy the virtuous dead can leave.

If these sentiments are correct, an apology is scarcely required in offering to the public the following memoir. The generous admirers of worth and merit are gratified by seeing brought into more general notice men, whose reputation, beyond their private sphere of usefulness, has been chiefly confined to their professional talents. When they can no longer cherish living favourites, they will sometimes patronize the unassuming record which is given of them after their death.

Mr. Thomas Holloway, the subject of the present account, was born in the year 1748, in Broad-street, and was the eldest son of his parents. His father was sufficiently easy in his circumstances to afford, although not a costly, yet a useful education to his children; of which there were four, one other

son, and two daughters. He was a man possessing great vivacity of disposition, inclining perhaps to versatility, and died at the early age of thirty-five years. Both parents were deeply imbued with religious principles; but Mrs. Holloway was a splendid instance of their power. Her's, indeed, was the christianity of the sex; animated yet gentle, fervent in the highest degree yet judicious, at once cheerful and profound. Her natural and social virtues were in perfect harmony with this heavenly impulse: as a mother, she was all tenderness; as a friend, all kindness; her smiling deportment won every heart; the poor found her their patroness; the rich their monitor, guide, and example. The last scene of so valuable a life was attended by no ordinary circumstances. Her death was distinguished by an

ardour of rapture that few experience, and was, indeed, so remarkable, that this mention of it, although perhaps obtruding too much of private history, may be allowed; especially as her dying moments, never forgotten by any of her children, were more particularly impressed on the memory of the subject of these pages. His reflections in after life upon this most touching of human events, seemed by their continual recurrence to keep undiminished in him the force of those refined principles, which may frequently be traced to the pleasing and powerful incitements of filial love and maternal example. Often has he contemplated her beautiful portrait till his countenance appeared to reflect the same serene and elevated expression, and to soften its masculine lines into a near resemblance of the feminine

grace and attractive delicacy of the unconscious image. Who but the dutiful son and devout christian can conceive at these moments the enviable state of his feelings?

With such advantageous guardianship of his earlier years, it cannot be a matter of surprise that he soon felt the influence of genuine religion. This from the first to the last was his prevailing source of action. The ethereal thread which leads through the mazes of the present to a better world, was never, in any situation of life, lost by him: it seemed as if the eye of Providence never withdrew from him its benign regard.

But he did not neglect other studies, and was zealous in every mode of improvement; he acquired the constant habit of rising with

his brother in winter as in summer at almost unseasonable hours, to read and recite, of which he was fond; and often afterwards looked back with pleasure to the professional assistance of the celebrated rhetorician Mr. Quin. He lost, undoubtedly, many of his youthful attainments, but never the art of expressing himself gracefully and correctly, and of reading elegantly. It may be said that this well grounded acquisition combined with his natural suavity of temperament, ever after influenced his uniform propriety of deportment, and imparted to his manners that suitable confidence which always conciliated kindness or engaged attention: with a person of short stature, and rather muscular form, he was yet graceful and dignified.

As he grew up, his parents being dissenters,

he had the privilege of the society of many distinguished ministers of different orders of the seceding body; whose conversation was often enriched by the piety and learning of some clergymen of the established church. All that were good were welcome at the family hearth. The impassioned zeal of Whitfield, the reasoning decision of Wesley, the pathos of Romaine, were exhibited before him. Afterwards the present venerable Rowland Hill was his companion, the eloquent Robinson of Cambridge his intimate friend. He was almost constantly with men not only remarkable for their animated christianity, but also for their great intellectual endowments.

Pursuing for himself his enquiries into the Scriptures, in order to establish his sentiments on points of doctrine, and modes of worship,

of which he had heard discussed and seen practised a great variety with equal sincerity and edification, he became, after the most laborious and conscientious examination of apparently contending texts, and the perusal of many celebrated controversial writings, a baptist; and was immersed at the chapel, and received into the congregation, of the late excellent Dr. Stennett, who was his affectionate and beloved pastor till this blameless minister of religion died.

In the possession of these sentiments he was never shaken, although his attachment to particular tenets did not render him illiberal or uncandid. He was at home in every religious society. It so happened, indeed, that during the last twenty-five years of his life he had no opportunity of regularly joining

an assembly of his own denomination, and was in consequence a participator amongst the members of any respectable dissenting community whose place of public service was most agreeable or convenient to him: his private connections were accordingly numerous.

But this memoir has a two-fold object. As an artist, Mr. Holloway soon emerged into some notice; and it will doubtless be gratifying to many who did not personally know him, to be informed of the steps which conducted him from an obscure to an extensive and permanent reputation.

When very young he conceived a strong predilection for drawing, which was afterwards confirmed by the able instruction he received in this accomplishment at school. At

the usual time therefore of entering upon some regular mode of life, he rejected the advantage of a lucrative business then open to him as the elder son, and after some hesitation as to what might be best for him, was apprenticed to Mr. Stent, an eminent seal-engraver. Under the care of this artist, his attention was principally confined to the sculpture of steel, which was then in prevalent fashion; and he afterwards executed some very superior specimens, particularly a head of Ariadne, which gained him general praise; but as this costly appendage to dress was, on account of the great labour and delicacy of its workmanship, of tedious acquisition, gold and the glitter of precious stones soon supplied the place of the homely but more durable mineral.

When, therefore, he had completed his

pupillage, seals and medals were in part abandoned, and he for some time amused himself in attaining the knowledge of several varieties of engraving on stone and copper, as well as on steel, which he practised without tuition. Whilst thus engaged, he filled up considerable portions of his leisure hours at the Royal Academy, drawing and modelling in wax, chiefly from the antique; and eagerly availed himself of the advantage of the lectures which were delivered at this magnificent school of art, and of the use of the library. Recurring to this period of his life, he used sometimes to relate an amusing circumstance which he witnessed while attending a lecture, and which, as exhibiting strongly characteristic differences of temperament and manner between two eminent men, may be considered as sufficiently interesting to be recorded.

As usual, the students and a large company comprising many of the nobility and persons of rank, were listening to one of the elegant compositions of Sir Joshua Reynolds, when Dr. Johnson, in complete dishabille, carelessly entered; and without regard to the interruption and disturbance caused by his unceremonious demeanour, threw himself into a chair which he had seized at another part of the room, immediately in front of the lecturer. Soon afterwards Garrick came, and perceiving it was his misfortune also to be late, with a graceful inclination of respect, and concealing himself as much as possible from notice, stepped forward with caution, and sheltered himself behind the professor's seat till the conclusion. If the manners of a modern audience permitted the ebullitions of feeling and vivacity which distinguished the Athe-

nians, the company on this occasion might, in imitation of a well known precedent, have saluted the great actor with general applause, to shew at least their admiration of modesty and good breeding, if not inclined to express, except by indirect reproof, their sense of negligence and rude assurance in a man so illustrious as the great moralist.

At length, by the advice of a friend and academician, and following the bias of his own inclination, Mr. Holloway applied himself entirely to line engraving on copper, and adopted this branch of art as the future business of his life.

At first his subjects were chiefly portraits of private persons and ministers, and embellishments of magazines; his talents therefore

were only partially known, and his genius consequently not powerfully elicited. But every thing he did was scrupulously correct; and as he frequently made the drawings himself for his engravings from nature, he acquired an accuracy of eye and precision of judgment that never failed him.

The first great work on which he entered was the English publication of Lavater's Essays on Physiognomy. To this he was encouraged by a great lover of the arts, who suggested to him, that if the plates were executed in a superior style of excellence, and duplicates given of the most interesting subjects from the antique, and from original pictures in this country, of which Lavater had not been able to avail himself, it might be well received. He in consequence engaged

the Rev. Dr. Hunter in the translation; and forming a connexion with two publishers, had the courage to embark in a work containing seven hundred plates, and extending to five volumes imperial quarto.

No undertaking could have been better planned to secure public approbation; comprehending as it did his own superior talents, the popular genius of the translator, then the eminent minister of the Scots' Church at London Wall, the influence and activity of favourite booksellers, and the splendid press of Bensley.

Soon after the proposals to publish this work by subscription in numbers were circulated, the names of the liberal, the rich, the scientific, and the noble, were flowing rapidly

into the list. No doubt was entertained that the success of the design would be equal to the care and justice which were intended to be applied to it; but on a sudden the French war, which convulsed the world and absorbed all men's passions, diverted for a time the public attention from this as well as from several other works of magnitude, and materially checked the exhilirating stream of patronage: still the encouragement was sufficiently great to induce the parties to proceed; and in a short time the first number appeared. This elegant specimen commanded general admiration. The style of the translation was distinguished by grace, delicacy, and grandeur; and so perfectly were the philosophic, the devout sentiments of the author, conveyed into their new dress, that all classes of readers were interested: the scholar was

informed, the good were cheered, and the curious amused. The graphic illustrations were of equal merit; and so balanced was the public favour between the translator and the artist, that some called the work Hunter's, and some Holloway's Lavater, which is the case to the present day.

This, throughout its whole progress, was a pleasing work; not only as it was sufficiently remunerative, but because it brought into each others society men of great and various attainments. The invitations were regular and reciprocal; and the parties must be considered interesting, at which were displayed the polished conversation and lofty sentimentality of Hunter, the learning of Fuseli, the serene elegance of Lindsay, and the piety of Holloway. The various endowments of many

other friends, either literary or innocently convivial, enlivened these opportunities of business and of friendship. So pleased were the guests with their artist's hospitality in particular, that they would often say, "Holloway, some of us give more showy dinners, but the greatest enjoyment is always at your table." This was a favourite remark with Dr. Hunter, whose cordial disposition may be conceived from a little anecdote of this truly great man, which may not improperly be introduced here. On one occasion visiting his friend's pupils in their study, he closely examined an elaborate drawing by Burney, exhibiting the contrary effects of solitude on the good and the bad: the virtuous youth was receiving from the hand of the recluse power a cup of nectar. "What!" was the indignant exclamation of the Doctor, "paint the hap-

piness of solitude by drinking wine alone! and in the hands of a young man too!" There was a pointed moral in the remark, which was not lost on his youthful auditors.

To this recollection may be added an instance of the energy of mind and style of expression which distinguished Fuseli. An indiscreet visiter on a day of meeting, wishing to flatter this great genius by indulging in deistical sentiments, to which he thought the artist was inclined, made use of expressions derogatory of the Bible. "The Bible! the Bible! sir," repeated Fuseli, with an emphasis of look and gesture that at once silenced all argument, "it is the poet's book! it is the painter's book!" When Mr. Holloway described this scene, which had so gratified him, he sometimes startled his hearers by the vehe-

mence with which he endeavoured to imitate the manner of his impetuous friend.

About this time Mr. Holloway's inclinations were occasionally directed to portrait painting. The beautiful head before noticed, of his mother by Russell, refined his taste and stimulated his talents. He exhibited at Somerset House several specimens in miniature, and of the size of life in crayons. Amongst the latter were likenesses of himself and of his eldest niece and nephew, which are certainly equal to any examples of this beautiful style. It cannot be doubted, that had he made this pursuit his sole object, he would have been one of the finest portrait painters of the day. He succeeded also comparatively well in oils; and a small head of his friend Robinson has been much and deservedly admired; but in

this branch of the art he was too diffident to make many attempts.

Towards the conclusion of the work of Lavater, he was occasionally engaged on other advantageous subjects: two elaborate prints of Dr. Price and Dr. Priestley gained him great reputation; especially the first, after a picture by West. Both engravings will bear a comparison with the finest productions of English art.

Perhaps some private history is attached to the publication of the portraits of these superior men, who are well known to have taken a political part opposed to the existing government of that day.

In the universal ardour of politics which

inflamed the whole country at this period, and imbued the patriotic principle too strongly perhaps with the dangerous force of popular democracy, our artist's mind was not altogether free from the prevailing bias. He, like many other good men, hailed the rising star of French liberty, as the signal not only of the overthrow of civil despotism, but also of the extinction of an intolerant and exclusive religion, and of the substitution of protestantism, attended with its characteristic, unbounded toleration.

The most sanguinary of the French revolutionists were not seen at first in their true colours: their dramatic style and costume gave to their atrocities the splendour and indifference of the stage, where, in appearance, men die and blood flows for amusement. The

penetrating judgment of Englishmen was as totally overthrown as was extinguished the humanity of their Gallic neighbours.

At length the immortal volume of Burke appeared; which, with the brightness of reason, soon dispelled the mists of error, and darted a detecting ray into the bosom of that dreadful scene, in which impiety, treachery and ferocity, had been perpetrating the most enormous crimes. The vivid exposure and force of prediction of this writer, alike awakened conviction and informed the mind. Europe snatched the sword and shield; and amidst the onset of armies alternately defeating and defeated, the great principle of social order was never lost sight of, till having called up on all sides the greatest statesmen and heroes, its triumph was finally achieved.

Amongst other converts, our artist soon perceived that the zeal of politics was not always consistent with wisdom; and whilst many of his friends still retained the hope that the neighbouring revolution would yet terminate in good, he felt that liberty was best secured by alliance with monarchical institutions. He saw that in the splendour of a court were the refinements of elegance, the polish of manners, and the distribution of wealth; cultivated courage, patronage of the arts, and the encouragement of literature and of industry. He saw from what fountain of clemency flows the mercy that seasonably pardons the culprit; and he beheld also and revered the vested and unquestioned power which, directed to a nation's benefit and protection, arms the sword of justice with its irreversible stroke. With sentiments thus altered

he could still admire a Fox and a Sheridan, but ranged himself with a Pitt and a Burke.

Besides the portraits which have occasioned these allusions, he filled up intervals of time, assisted by his pupils, with many engravings illustrative of the noble publications of Boydell, Macklin, and Bowyer; and was employed in the embellishments of several beautiful editions of the British classics.

There was only one interruption of consequence that ever diversified his professional career. A few years previous to the present period, the new and interesting subject of animal magnetism was presented to the public attention. It was first popular in France, and soon in the hands of very able persons became highly attractive in England. Amongst other

authors, Mr. John Holloway, the artist's brother, offered himself as a candidate for this new species of fame; and soon surpassed, by his new and imposing style of lecturing, most of his competitors. In London, large parties of well informed persons assembled at his house, to hear the abstract question discussed and its results explained. The mind already prepossessed, it is not astonishing that perhaps superficial metaphysics, when combined with an ardent and devout style, strongly fascinated and gratified the imagination. Such energy of apparent philosophy and real piety overcame the heart; and the ready tribute of praise was at hand, before the frigid spirit of criticism could arise to intercept the generous offering. It is not however insinuated, that animal magnetism was without some foundation in truth; but as it receded before the

allurements of other novelties, it ought not perhaps to be spoken of as a demonstrable science. Through the absurd ambition, indeed, of many individuals not well qualified for the subject, but who yet aimed at carrying it beyond its proper limits, it was at length betrayed to ridicule and satire; and although not falling entirely into disrepute, became gradually obsolete. With the correctly initiated, the simple theory was that of the influence of mind upon mind; to acquire which was the art taught in the lectures in question. Without entering into details it must be evident to all, that such a developement of human powers, required the skill of great and peculiar endowments. The inventor of these superior essays, was not able, except on a few occasions, to be his own reader beyond the vicinities of the metropolis, to which

he was confined by stated employment. It was therefore at his urgent request, that his brother for a while left the calm seclusion of his studious life, and entered upon a new and more active scene. His qualifications as a rhetorical reader have been mentioned; and the fame of his relation having travelled to the great provincial towns before him, he was sure of a favourable reception. He performed his kind task well, and with so much spirit that no stranger could imagine he stood in a deputed character, and read for the reputation and emolument of another. Such was the attraction attending his delivery of the lectures, that many men of eminence were his hearers; and he used to look back with pleasure, and always mentioned the anecdote gaily, at the polite eagerness of his scientific supporters amongst the liberal pro-

fessions, who would vie for the office of turning over his pages and attending to the requisites of his desk.

His circuit duly performed, he surrendered his credentials and the contents of the literary chest to their deserving and highly gifted owner, and feeling himself repaid by success on the one hand and brotherly gratitude on the other, became again the retired artist.

This memoir has now arrived at a most interesting and important period in Mr. Holloway's professional life.

The Cartoons of Raphael, at Windsor, had occasionally been seen by him, but not sufficiently often to make him acquainted with their infinite superiority over all their copies.

Dorigny's prints were in universal reputation, and Dorigny he possessed and admired. Nothing, perhaps, in the shape of criticism can give so noble an idea of these master-pieces of Raphael, as the circumstance of the celebrity of such humble imitations. If at the time of their publication the originals had been destroyed, and Raphael had never painted other subjects, still he would have been renowned by these shadows of his greatness, for grandeur, and propriety of composition; which, indeed, form a great part of the painter's triumph; but the surpassing excellence of Raphael consists, as well, in the graces of expression, the delicacy of effect, and shadowy softness and richness of his harmonies; and these were only to be seen in the originals. If it create surprise that their transcendant superiority should not

always be instantly discovered, not only on comparison with their imperfect copies, but in themselves, it must be remembered, that the higher works of the human mind contain many recondite qualities that baffle immediate perception. In pictures, even the scientific eye is so easily captivated by meretricious beauties, if accompanied by real merit, that when these are absent, it frequently turns away too soon from a new object. The style also to which it is more habituated has an advantage over much greater excellence which requires time and labour to appreciate. It may be added that the best taste has its partialities; and the votaries of Guido, and Correggio, might for a moment survey the faded majesty of the cartoons and be sensible of disappointment. Sir Joshua Reynolds confessed, with humility, that he studied

Michael Angelo and the fresco paintings of the Vatican some time before that divinity of art was revealed to him, to which he afterwards bowed as to an idol. Inferior devotees may be allowed to shelter themselves under the protection of his great name. Mr. Holloway, when conversing on this subject, mentioned a similar anecdote of Opie; who avowed that he had often seen the cartoons without justly appreciating their merits. He said, that induced by Mr. Holloway's presence, to examine them more attentively, it seemed as if he was gifted with new eyes. Some of their beauties have escaped the vigilance of other superior artists. On one occasion, Sir William Beechey mounted the temporary platform raised to facilitate the drawings, and surveying with astonishment the elaborate finish and expression of the

picture before him, which in many parts required a close inspection, yielded to a rapture of delight in terms of animation which afterwards were imitated in the analytical illustration which accompanied the engraving. It cannot then be thought inexcuable that, at first, Mr. Holloway was not aware that he had to bring to the prosecution of his great design new ideas of excellence, and enlarged powers of judgment, before he could be qualified to do justice to these noblest of human productions.

To return from these remarks, it was simply the possession of Dorigny's prints, that first suggested to him the conception of a new and more finished series of engravings. The subject was afterwards discussed in frequent conversations with the late President of the

Royal Academy. Mr. West was, perhaps, of all the modern painters, the most uniform admirer of Raphael. The cartoons he had made for many years his constant study; and he was impatient to see them descend to posterity more perfectly represented; anticipating as he did, the period when the slow corrosions of time, will obliterate those forms of grandeur and lines of beauty, which are rendered more accessible to his unsparing injuries by the nature of the materials that were adopted in their composition. Three hundred years had already passed over these sublime works, and they yet exhibited antiquity rather than decay: but who could expect the impression of a few more centuries to be equally inconsiderable?

It was by Mr. West's kind instrumentality that Mr. Holloway gained access to the

palace.—The late Royal Patron of the Arts was eminently partial to this great painter; and His Majesty seemed pleased to shew his kindness for him by granting to his friend, not only permission, but exclusive permission to make every use of the cartoons that might be required. Soon afterwards, with that consideration and benevolent condescension which always marked the intercourse of this revered Monarch with his subjects, he gave instructions to the master of the board of works, to supply the artist with every convenience of scaffolding, easels, &c.; to which was ordered to be added in winter, the accommodation of stoves; although unfavourable to the appearance of the royal chambers.

His Majesty frequently watched the progress of the work, and often familiarly con-

versed on those occasions; not forgetting sometimes to intermingle a few pleasant sarcasms on the apparent slowness with which it proceeded. Once he said, 'Mr. Holloway, I have only to live three hundred years, to see the termination of your labours!' His Majesty was correct in his observation of the artist's caution; for at first the importance of his employment, and perhaps the vicinity of the royal presence, seemed in some degree to abate the confidence of a mind which otherwise rarely discovered irresolution.

Permission thus granted, a prospectus was soon published; inviting patronage, and detailing conditions of subscription.

Patronage was in part gained: most of Mr. Holloway's private friends had already

promised their encouragement. Amongst many distinguished individuals who felt an interest in the project, and whose countenance and advice were of the highest utility, Mr. Samuel Rogers, the poet, stood in the first rank. His name alone was a passport to the public favour; and his support particularly cheered and animated the courage of the artist, in the difficulties and diffidence atttending the commencement of so arduous an undertaking.

As to the terms of subscription, it will be seen that at this time, no adequate calculation had been made of the probable magnitude of the impending labour; whether in respect of time, or expense: the enthusiasm of the moment at once diminished the greatness of the task, and suggested the flattering hope of its rapid completion. A few years therefore,

and a moderate price, appeared sufficient to finish and make compensation for the time and talents to be devoted to it. With these ideas Mr. Holloway proceeded to Windsor; and left his pupils and establishment at his house in Newington Green; thinking his speedy return with the first drawing would prevent the necessity of removing. Weeks however elapsed almost without a commencement; and he was soon convinced of the real character of the important enterprise in which he had embarked. On this discovery the plan was changed; and the domicile entirely transferred to the precincts of the royal castle. This proved a fortunate necessity; as the originals thus became equally accessible to the younger students; whose admiration of their unexpected grandeur and beauty added a lively interest to their employment, and urged to

greater emulation of improvement and new vigour of application. It may be said, without derogating from Mr. Holloway's merits, that their youthful ardour acted as a stimulus on his more sedate habits. Thus not only the drawings soon began to shew considerable progress and command the highest approbation, but the plate of St. Paul at Athens was perceptibly advancing.

About this time leave was graciously accorded to Mr. Holloway to dedicate the work to his Majesty; to whom, as the highest of favours, he had the honour of being appointed historical engraver; and on the publication of the first print, of being admitted into the royal presence to present it.

Soon afterwards his former pupils and sub-

sequent assistants became partners in the work; to the prosecution of which it was evident that their united talents, property, and zeal, would scarcely be equal. Of these cordial associates, Mr. Slann and Mr. Webb, who were also his nephews in law, alone continued uninterruptedly to co-operate with him; having now for many years performed the chief part of the execution of the engravings; to the reputation of which they have greatly contributed by the exercise of abilities in all respects worthy their esteemed coadjutor. Their superior talents will, doubtless, ensure to these gentlemen the honour and satisfaction of bringing to a successful termination, which is not far distant, this most splendid of graphic undertakings. The other proprietors were fellow labourers but a short time. Mr. Joseph Thomson, who alone had not been

a pupil with the rest, fell an early victim of a too ardent genius; which was inflamed by an impassioned courtship, and a disposition eagerly ambitious of fame. His loss, as a partner, is still felt in the consequent duration of a work, which his great endowments would have considerably assisted to shorten. This fine and accomplished young man died, and was buried at Hampton; where his dust is an honour to the ground that contains it. His memory can only be forgotten by his friends when they are themselves reduced to the same lowly level.

The next vacancy was occasioned by the injurious effects of too much application on the health of Mr. Holloway's nephew; who was at length obliged to renounce sedentary, for more active habits.

As the magnitude and expensiveness of the work became more and more apparent, the terms of subscription advanced; but such was the diffidence of the artists, that additions were made at long intervals before the price was ultimately fixed at ten guineas. This remuneration would not have been required had the original proposals been better planned; the first price of three guineas being, as it must appear to all who are acquainted with the engravings, totally inadequate to their value: it ought, however, to be mentioned, to the honour of the liberal consideration of the early subscribers, whose kindness will always be felt, that the greater part increased their payments to four, five, and in some instances to six, and a few friends to eight and ten guineas. It would be improper to introduce names; but there are some individuals who, now the artist is

no more, will enjoy the agreeable recollection of the kind assistance with which they cheered him in his latter years; and whose encouragement proved a consolation he took with him to the grave.

Windsor is a noble place for an artist: the beauty, extent, and magnificence of its varied prospects; the imposing sublimity and antiquity of the castle; the solemn architecture of the abbey; where the pealing organ and choral voice daily accompany the services of religion, are all incentives to that deep feeling which, compounded of the most refined and elevated ideas, unremittingly administers to the flame of genius.

It was at this royal residence that Mr. Holloway was sometimes condescendingly visited

by the princesses; whose gracious smiles and affable manners were to him the highest honour and support. This is almost approaching sacred ground; as the recollection is associated with a subsequent most afflictive event. Suffice it to say, that the artist's tear flowed in unison with the sorrow of a nation, and the grief of her royal father, at the death of the lovely Amelia. How profound, how refined is the homage which the heart pays to beauty, to virtue, and exalted rank! If the pathetic thought of a modern poet, that "nothing dies but something mourns," be correct of little things, it is easy to conceive the magnitude of the sentiment when applied to the loss of a people's most cherished object, and of a family's dearest treasure.

A few years limited the stay of Mr. Hol-

loway and his associates at a place rendered interesting by many favourable circumstances; for the cartoons being removed to their original gallery at Hampton Court, thither the artists followed; and it was here that the first plate, which on its appearance gained immediate reputation, was published.

After the lapse of many years at this palace, all the drawings were finished; during which time the Charge to Peter, and the Death of Ananias, and Elymas, were presented to the public with honours equal to the first plate.

Mr. Holloway's time at the palaces was agreeably passed; for, although occasioning many interruptions of his studies, he enjoyed the opportunity of frequent conversation with the numerous admirers of Raphael. To all,

indeed, who wished the advantage of his remarks, he paid the most polite attention; and many have been known to visit the galleries principally to have the advantage of his critical illustrations. He sometimes commented as the christian, sometimes as the artist; and in those animated moments often discovered beauties new even to himself.

There is, undoubtedly, much in a subject taken from the religion of a people to captivate and interest beyond other historical compositions; even more than the designs of fancy and invention. At the time of the great triumph of the arts in Italy, it is allowed that the zeal of devotion stimulated the painter's genius, and multiplied the number of his efforts. In analysing an ordinary subject none of those mixed feelings are awakened that

flow from the personal interest which a design from the sacred writings excites. The passing events of the age often afford striking exhibitions, but the embodying a profound and important doctrine of religion, touches a man's taste through the medium of the strongest of all prepossessions, that of his faith. Thus a dignified head of Christ, the portraiture of a John or a Peter, will command very different sensations from the effect produced by the features of an Alfred or a Cæsar. Mr. Holloway admired, nearly to veneration, the cartoons as pictures; but was entirely subdued by their subjects. These observations arise from his habit before mentioned, of expatiating not only on the merits of the composition, but of his digressing into the nature of the incident represented; still he always had the good taste to perceive when he produced conge-

nial feelings, or otherwise, and governed himself accordingly with much judgment.

The drawings being completed, forming a most faithful and valuable series of copies, the artists, now that the pictures were no longer essential to them, except for occasional consultation, removed to Edgefield, in Norfolk; to which delightful village they were attracted by their love of perfect retirement, the probability of a reduction in their expenditure, and by the affectionate and superior society of some valued relatives who had long been residents there. Through this circumstance they soon felt themselves at home; but after sustaining for a considerable period the inconvenience of houses unsuitable for their large and increasing families, were obliged, reluctantly, to make another change.

At Edgefield, the beautiful plate of the miraculous draught of fishes, which supported to its fullest extent the credit of the former four, was finished, and soon after published.

The desired object being at length obtained of eligible and contiguous habitations, Mr. Holloway and his associates removed to Coltishall, near Norwich; where, having had the pleasure to see the sixth engraving in advanced progress, and the only remaining one commenced, this excellent man, in February, 1827, surrounded by the greater proportion of his nearest relatives, serenely closed a life which, for almost eighty years, had been devoted to usefulness and goodness. His death was like the sleeping of an infant, or the fall of a flower which drops from its stalk to the earth, not from the pressure of the breeze,

but through its own maturity. So sunk his mortal frame, which had been spared the painful invasions of disease. Even its decay was not externally apparent; it was secretly worn out by slow accessions of imperceptible age, which rendered his previous indisposition, of a few days only, rather indicative of an approaching state of feebleness, than of dissolution; but, the thread of life was attenuated till it could vibrate no longer, and then it parted. So inaudible was his last sigh that his friends, watching around his bed with the vigilance of affection, could not discover the exact moment of his decease; a circumstance demanding their gratitude, as he, like many excellent characters, sometimes expressed himself anxiously when conversing on man's last scene. But during his short confinement he was without alarm; his only

sentiment, on one occasion, was, that if his recovery was in accordance with the will of God, his friends might hope and pray for it, but not otherwise; a resignation remarkable in one who, when free from the pressure of pain and care, which rarely assailed him, warmly enjoyed life. With a conscience void of offence, he experienced that inward serenity which makes human existence appear a noble gift of the Creator. His remains were deposited in the principal aisle of Coltishall church; to which resting place he had been conveyed amidst the grief of his relatives, and the respect of his esteemed neighbours.

WHERE mingles the dust of the greatly good?
Beneath the sabbath-worn aisle it lies;
Beneath the tread of the peasant rude,
And the knees of religious votaries.

But there is not always a Sunday group
  Waiting around the altar to pray;
In silent solitude oft we may stoop,
  And weep o'er the stone that covers his clay.

Tears hide the inscription; we think on the man;
  Recall his virtues and talents to mind;
We think of his holy and beautiful plan
  Of living to God as well as mankind.

When sooth'd with this sweet reflection we stay,
  No more his ashes our thoughts employ;
We turn to the realms of eternal day,
  And see him—a cloudless spirit of joy!

Having brought the sketch of Mr. Holloway's life as an artist to a close, it may be gratifying to many to be further acquainted with so excellent a man in his private capacity.

He was never married; but was twice engaged in the bonds of affection. His first, and most passionate attachment, was harshly interrupted by the avarice of his intended father-in-law, who felt anxious that his daughter should elevate herself in the world by wealth: he never forgot this disappointment. He sometimes, in his familiar moments said, he was not able to lose the impression of that last and hopeless look, which, with the poignancy of female sorrow, told him their separation was final. The second instance, which happened in the sober maturity of his years, was rather the effect of congenial religious sentiments than simple love; this, therefore, under the mask of the external attentions of courtship, first faded into friendship, and then yielded, on both sides, to the neutralizing circumstances of contrary situations in life.

These events did not, as often is the result with others, produce misanthropic aversions; or subdue the natural cheerfulness of his disposition: he was always the polite advocate of the sex: he sympathized with the affectionate mother, and was greatly attached to the society of children: his knees, as an uncle, were as much frequented as the lap of the tenderest and most indulgent of fathers.

His friendships generally lasted till intercepted by death. The first engagement of this nature commenced at school; where, in addition to the general branches of education taught by the different masters, he had the advantage of the daily attention and gratuitous instruction of a gentleman, then an inmate in the house, who, to all the classical attainments of a finished mind, united the greatest kind-

ness. This individual was afterwards well known by the title of Dr. De Valangin: the friendship between him and his young favourite continued unbroken till this estimable and highly valued physician died. It is unnecessary to multiply instances: one more, however, may be mentioned, as it is recorded by Mr. Holloway's own hand, in the last of his epistolary correspondence, within little more than a fortnight before his death, which he had then no reason to anticipate. This letter was addressed to his greatly esteemed friend Mr. Hollick. In it, after expressing his thanks for the kind invitation of that gentleman to pass a few days at his seat near Cambridge, and, in answer to kind inquiries about his health, reiterating his gratitude for the unusual vigour of mind and body with which the Divine Being continued

to favour him, he added, in nearly the following words: " Our friendship commenced when we were young men, and is now prolonged into that of aged christians; this will exist and ripen in a future and better state. The present life is but the bud of being."

Wherever he went he never departed from the character of a conspicuous christian; and never lost an opportunity to interpose the inculcation of a christian's faith: but his zeal was well regulated, and, as already stated, he was without bigotry. This is no slight praise, when it is considered how often religion which, in descending from heaven, appears like an angel illustrious with light and beauty, is, on her touching the earth to inhabit with men, transformed by their ignorance and violence into a spectre to affright, or a demon to avenge.

So dark often is the gloom of superstition, and so great the vindictiveness of passion in the conflict of opposite opinions, that the divine gift which is bestowed to improve, adorn, and diffuse universal benevolence, is converted by infirmity to prejudice, deformity, and malice. How many either lock the secret treasure in their unparticipating bosoms, cherish exclusive and austere doctrines, or openly wage, even in familiar society, the war of intolerance! Such was not the disposition of Mr. Holloway. To the milk of human kindness he added the oil of heavenly charity. If he felt anger, it was soon checked if improper, and allowed only when its object was vice, impiety, or absurd levity. An anecdote which he related of himself and the immortal John Hunter, will furnish a view of one part of his character, and

illustrate his and that eminent surgeon's contrary creeds.

Calling on a mutual friend, he found the professor remarking, in debasing terms, on the helplessness and meanness of the infantine state; and, indeed, ridiculing the birth of man. This was an occasion not to be lost. Mr. Holloway, in taking up the subject, observed, that the helplessness of the child undoubtedly calls forth the affection of its parents, and by its long continuance turns that affection into habit; that the ray of intelligence, diffused in pleasing smiles over the expressive features, soon reveals the intellectual principle, and attaches importance to the infant almost from its birth. He added, that independent of natural considerations, the weakness of the object illustrates the power

of Providence; whose superintendence of so frail a charge, proves that there remains a destiny beyond the present state which gives to decaying mortality the opportunity of eternal happiness. This was too much; the two-fold attack on natural and religious grounds overcame the patience of the aggressor in the dispute, who, in his uncontrollable aversion to argumentative opposition, immediately and unceremoniously left the house.

In the society to which Mr. Holloway attached himself at Windsor, he, with other worthy friends, considerably promoted the usefulness and the importance of the dissenting interest there; and, perhaps, helped to dignify, as well as secure, its subordinate pretensions; surrounded as it was by the splendour of a great hierarchal establishment. It is super-

fluous to say, that he lost none of the royal favour through his sectarian zeal. His Majesty well knew the artist's religious partialities, but his candour as a man was equal to his uniform love of toleration as a king. He was himself a sincere christian, and liked religion even in its humblest forms.

At Hampton, he had similar opportunities; and another opening, as at Windsor, for the formation and partial endowment of a school at Ditton, a village a few miles distant from his residence; but which he never neglected on this account in any weather; but took with him for many years, in winter, as in summer, his humble dinner, that he might have the whole day to fulfil his pleasing task. Of the children he was the tutor, the pastor, and the friend; and he had the happiness to see a

marked improvement in the general manners of the lower orders of the surrounding neighbourhood, long before he was obliged, by the circumstance of removing, to resign so delightful a superintendence.

In this benevolent work he was assisted by many pious and liberal individuals; especially by ladies; who were always happy to promote his views of usefulness; so thoroughly were they persuaded of his judgment, sincerity, and zeal. These friends never withdrew their pecuniary aid to this school, but remitted directly, or through him, their regular contributions, knowing that he although far distant, still continued unceasingly interested in its welfare.

But his benevolence was not circumscribed

by particular objects, it was general and habitual. He frequently placed himself in the forlorn situations of many worthy and embarrassed individuals, by stating their cases personally, or writing memorials for them; which scarcely ever failed to prove the kindness and charity of the rich, and the gratitude and restoration of the relieved.

The writer of this brief history has had the pleasure of being the bearer of his bounty; and of witnessing the satisfactory effect of his well-timed assistance, not only on the immediate circumstance of distress, but on the mind of the sufferer; by arming it with fresh courage, and by pouring into the cup of life the long untasted cordial of hope. Had he been a man of considerable wealth, no one could have wished a more gratifying

office than that of his almoner: for however we may survey the ordinary disparity of external conditions with resignation, if not with indifference, perceiving, as we cannot help, that poverty often wears the smile which is wanted by fortune, yet meeting with the extreme vicissitudes which assail humanity, it is delightful to fill, with the overflowings of plenty, the empty hand of patient and excessive penury; whose privations are not the result of idleness and vice, but of age, infirmity, and unsuccessful industry. Mr. Holloway had ever the highest example before him, the example of One "who went about doing good:" which sacred eulogium was his favourite and often repeated precept; whether as relating to the objects of this world, or to the concerns of the next. It was his delight to see the garden of religion

not only tilled with the minutest care, and arranged with elaborate skill, but beautiful with blossoms, and rich with fruit; the fruits of kindness, and of goodness. This he considered the true paradise, which is still to be found on earth; and accessible to all who have the courage to ascend the steep and laborious heights from whose lofty and ever-flourishing and verdant summit glitters far off the resplendent scene. To this noble separation from the lower and dark world he was ever anxious to induce his fellow men; and under the influence of so exalted a motive, sometimes took upon himself the pastoral office. At first, this assumption, always practised with modesty, was the result of unavoidable occurrences, in his frequently leading duties in different religious societies: it was afterwards made natural to him, as the teacher of many

children, whom he was in the habit of addressing in the intervals of instruction, and in those periods of the day of rest when divine service was not performed. In time he seemed pleased to fill up a sacred hour by publicly explaining and enforcing heavenly truths; which situation, however, was as often the consequence of the solicitations of others; who were gratified to hear a good man deliver his sentiments, with great simplicity, and with earnestness at least, if not with very commanding eloquence or extensive learning. This encroachment, as some may consider it, on the ministerial function, did not arise from any disregard to the important principle of order. It is true, as a dissenter, he felt he had that freedom which is not recognised by the established church; but, when local circumstances permitted it, he greatly preferred

the appointment of a settled and regularly ordained pastor to the desultory supply, however excellent, of this important office, by laymen or ministers emanating from missionary or other valuable religious bodies. In his own efforts he availed himself of the best guides. Amongst his favourite authors, next to Dr. Doddridge, were the celebrated writers of the established church; whose volumes were always before him for reference, and for the purposes of instruction and piety. From their bright and unfailing lamps he frequently took that pure oil, which supplied the flame both of his knowledge and of his zeal.

Thus was his track through life marked by the light of virtue and religion; which, diffusing around its cheering or directing lustre, invited many into the same path, and recalled

some who had wandered from it. His reward commenced even on this side the grave. He had the honours of a good man, in the high opinion of all who knew him: he enjoyed the unfailing esteem of his friends; the affection of many relatives; the personal kindness, as well as patronage, of some of the most highly distinguished and honoured individuals in the country; and, the pleasing reputation of a superior Artist.

FINIS.

# APPENDIX.

# APPENDIX.

Copy of a letter from the late Mr. West.

Newman Street, March 23, 1800.

Dear Sir,

It is a satisfaction to me to have it in my power to announce to you, that I yesterday had the honour to be with his Majesty; when he was so gracious as to signify his pleasure that the cartoons of Raphael were at your service, to engrave prints after: and further signified that one of the motives which induced him to place them at Windsor was, that they might be of benefit to the arts.*

I hope you will have health and the enjoyment of many years to accomplish this great undertaking; this is the sincere wish of

Dear Sir,

Your Friend and Obliged

Benjamin West.

Thomas Holloway, Esq.

* The pictures were before much out of public view at Buckingham House.—*Editor.*

Copy of a letter from the late Earl of Dartmouth, Lord Chamberlain of His late Majesty.

Berkeley Square, February, 1807.

Sir,

In consequence of the statement in your last letter, I have given directions that you shall receive your warrant of Historical Engraver to His Majesty, free of expense, whenever your leisure shall enable you to come to town to be sworn in, at the Lord Chamberlain's office, in the Stable Yard, St. James's.

I conclude it will not be long before your subscribers receive their first deliveries of the cartoons. I have seen a specimen of them, and it is my opinion that their excellence must ensure their success.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Dartmouth.

Mr. Thomas Holloway.

## ANECDOTE OF GARRICK.

The following interesting anecdote, which has been omitted in the preceding memoir, because it was not thought proper to introduce any circumstance in which Mr. Holloway was not personally concerned, was related to him by the late President of the Royal Academy. At the suggestion of Lord St. Helens, to whom Mr. Holloway had the honour to mention it, and who considered the incident sufficiently interesting to be blended in some way with the history of the cartoons, it was intended to form, on the publication of the print, a part of the analytical review of the picture to which it applies; but on subsequent consideration, it appeared that the introduction of adventitious matter would destroy the agreement of this, with the explanatory sketches which had accompanied the preceding engravings; it was therefore on that occasion reluctantly abandoned.

"A select party, amongst whom were Mr. West and Mr. Garrick, visited by invitation the late Earl of Exeter, at Burleigh House. After dinner, the conversation turned on Garrick's beautiful villa at Hampton; then on the neighbouring palace. As an obvious subject the cartoons were noticed; when Garrick addressing himself to Mr. West, said, 'These cartoons are spoken of as the first works of art in the world, yet I have often passed through the gallery, in a hurried manner perhaps, with other companies, without being much impressed by them.' Mr. West expressed his surprise, and replied, 'That the superior excellencies of these pictures can only be discovered and appreciated by study, must naturally be supposed, but that such a man as Garrick should not be arrested in his progress as he looked at them, or not have his attention attracted by some principal beauty or figure is extraordinary.' Mr. G. asked what figure was particularly calculated to produce such an

effect? 'Several,' was the answer. 'But name one,' said Mr. G. impatiently. Elymas, was instanced. 'Ah!' replied Mr. Garrick, 'I now recollect I was struck with this figure, but did not think it quite in character: this man was an attendant at the court of a Roman governor, and as versed in abstruse subjects could be no vulgar fellow; yet he stands with his feet straight forward in the manner of a clown. Why did not Raphael make him in his distress extend his arms like a gentleman while seeking assistance?' The company, highly interested in the conversation, united in requesting the favour of Mr. Garrick to personate the sorcerer as he would on the stage; adding the compliment that he was always led by the strong feelings of his mind into such perfect expression of look, and propriety of attitude, suitable to the character he represented, that the theatre and the actor were forgotten in the impression of reality with which he governed his audience. He con-

sented; and by the time he was in the middle of the room appeared the exact counterpart of Raphael's design. Mr. West softly approached him, and desired him not to alter his position, but to throw off his blindness and survey himself. 'I am Raphael's Elymas! I am Raphael's Elymas!' he exclaimed, to the great delight of Lord Exeter and his guests. 'I perceive,' he added, in reply to a banter of Mr. West about the elegance of his attitude, 'that a man in such circumstances, when deprived of his sight by a superior power, will not present the foot incautiously to obstacles, or think of a graceful extension of his arms. Fingers and toes, will, like the feelers of an insect, be advanced for discovery and protection.' This was considered by the company as a new proof of the accuracy with which the finest painter that ever lived delineated nature, and that Garrick was the first actor of the world."

NOTE.—It may be necessary for the satisfaction of several distant friends to the school at Ditton, of which notice has been taken in the preceding pages, lest it should be supposed by them that this institution may be materially affected by Mr. Holloway's death, to state for their information that, "on his removal into Norfolk, its management principally remained under the kind and able care of his reverend and greatly respected friend, the resident minister of the chapel; who to the important charge of his own pupils, is gratified by this weekly addition of his preceptoral and pastoral superintendence; to which he has been equally prompted by regard for his former neighbour and the dictates of his own feelings. Mr. Holloway's anxiety therefore, was chiefly directed to the funds necessary for this as well as for other purposes connected with the chapel."

The author regrets that the foregoing pas-

sage was forwarded to the press, as an addition to his manuscript, a little too late for its insertion in the proper place. The circumstance was brought to his recollection by the perusal of a letter sent to him by a friend, and he immediately felt that it ought not to be omitted in the memoir.

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